



**Justice for Families Program:  
Envisioning Solutions for Collaborative Practice**

*The Unique Role of Supervised Visitation and Safe  
Exchange in the Family Court System*

**Community Discussion Guide**

## **Introduction**

This Discussion Guide is designed to encourage further dialogue among community partners that participated in *The Unique Role of Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange in the Family Court System* webinar. The goal of this guide is to help supervised visitation and safe exchange programs and their community partners integrate the concepts presented during the webinar into their daily practice. After viewing the webinar, community partners are encouraged to work collaboratively to ensure that the safety of victims and their children are central in all policies and procedures related to confidentiality and information sharing. Furthermore, communities must ensure that VAWA confidentiality provisions are upheld and that each partner's role in this process is clearly defined.

The following questions can help communities explore these issues deeper.

## **Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Centers**

- What policies/procedures currently exist in your supervised visitation and safe exchange programs regarding the types of information gathered, documented, and maintained in case files?
- How were these policies/procedures developed?
- How do these policies/procedures centralize safety of the at-risk parent and children?
- Have community partners and key stakeholders been consulted in the creation and/or revision of these policies/procedures?
- Under what circumstances does the supervised visitation and safe exchange center provide information to third parties?
- How are decisions made regarding when and how information is provided to third parties? Who is involved in the decision-making process?
- What challenges are there regarding issues related to information sharing and confidentiality?
- How can community partnerships be leveraged to overcome these challenges?



## Courts



- What guidelines exist that regulate how information from the court is shared with supervised visitation and safe exchange centers?
  - How do these guidelines centralize safety of the at-risk parent and children?
  - How are decisions made regarding what information to share with supervised visitation and safe exchange centers?
- What is the process for sharing information with the supervised visitation and safe exchange centers? Have centers been consulted in developing this process?
- What types of information does the supervised visitation and safe exchange centers maintain that could inform judicial decision making?
- If the supervised visitation and exchange center has safety concerns, when and how should this concern be made known to the court?
- What challenges are there regarding issues related to information sharing and confidentiality?
- How can community partnerships be leveraged to overcome these challenges?

## Community Partners

- What policies/procedures exist in your discipline that regulate how information is shared with supervised visitation and safe exchange centers?
- How do these policies/procedures centralize safety of the at-risk parent and children?



- How are decisions made regarding what information to share with supervised visitation and safe exchange centers?
- What is the process for sharing information with the supervised visitation and safe exchange centers? Have centers been consulted in developing this process?
- How do third parties get access to information kept by supervised visitation and safe exchange centers? (what is the process keeping in mind VAWA confidentiality provisions)
- What challenges are there regarding issues related to information sharing and confidentiality?
- How can community partnerships be leveraged to overcome these challenges?

*This project was supported by Grant Number 2015-TA-AX-K023 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, the Center for Court Innovation, or the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.*

## Handout #6

### Information Sheet

#### Green v. Williams

Petitioner Boris Green filed for a temporary Protective Order against his live-in girlfriend, Candace Williams, accusing her of assaulting him by scratching his face with her fingernails. In addition, he sought residential custody of their 11-year-old daughter (Lila) and requested Ms. Williams only have supervised visitation with Lila. During a recent court hearing, in which neither party was represented by an attorney, Mr. Green stated that Ms. Williams is “crazy” and she is also abusing alcohol. He further stated that their daughter Lila wants to live with him, not Ms. Williams. Both parties testified at the hearing. Ms. Williams admitted to the court that she scratched Mr. Green. Aside from Mr. Green’s deep scratches and Mr. Green’s petition for a protection order, there was not much evidence before the judge.

# Petition for a Protective Order

<b>Court of Washington</b>	
<b>For</b>	<b>No.</b>  <b>Petition for Order for Protection (PTORPRT)</b>
<u>Boris Green</u> Petitioner	
vs.	
<u>Candace Williams</u> Respondent	

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a victim of domestic violence committed by the respondent. <input type="checkbox"/> A member of my family or household is a victim of domestic violence committed by the respondent. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a <input type="checkbox"/> guardian <input type="checkbox"/> guardian ad litem <input type="checkbox"/> next friend of a minor who is 13 to 15 years of age and is a victim of domestic violence in a dating relationship with a person age 16 or older. The name of the minor victim is _____. This person's identifying information is provided in paragraph 5 below.	
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The victim lives in this county. <input type="checkbox"/> The victim left their residence because of abuse and this is the county of their new or former residence.	
3. The victim's age is:	Respondent's age is:
<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 16 or 17 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 or over	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 16 or 17 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 or over

4. The victim and the respondent are:

Intimate Partners because they are:

current or former spouses or domestic partners

parents of a child-in-common

age 16 or older and are/were in a dating relationship, and are currently residing together or resided together in the past  age 16 or older and are/were in a dating relationship, but have *never* resided together.

Family or household members because they are:

current or former adult cohabitants as roommates  adult in-laws  adults related by blood  parent and child  stepparent and stepchild  grandparent and grandchild.

5. Identification of Minors (if applicable)  No Minors involved.

Name (First, Middle Initial, Last)	Age	Race	Sex	How Related to		Resides with
				Petitioner	Respondent	
Lila M Green	12	White	F	Child	Child	Mother

6. Other court cases or other restraining, protection or no-contact orders involving me, the minors and the respondent:

<b>Case Name</b>			
<b>Case Number</b>			
<b>Court/County</b>			

**I Request an Order for Protection** following a hearing that will:

<sup>1</sup>  **Restrain** respondent from causing any physical harm, bodily injury, assault, including sexual assault, and from molesting, harassing, threatening, or stalking  me  the minors named in paragraph 5 above  these minors only:

(If the court orders this relief, and you and the respondent are current or former spouses or domestic partners, parents of a child-in-common, age 16 or older and are/were in a dating relationship, and are

currently residing together or resided together in the past, age 16 or older and are/were in a dating relationship, but have *never* resided together, the respondent will not be able to obtain or possess a firearm, other dangerous weapon, ammunition, or concealed pistol license for the duration of the order.)

<sup>2</sup>  **Restrain** respondent from harassing, following, keeping under physical or electronic surveillance, cyberstalking as defined in RCW 9.61.260, and using telephonic, audiovisual, or other electronic means to monitor the actions, locations, or wire or electronic communication of  me  the minors named in paragraph 5 above  only the minors listed below;  members of the victim's household listed below  the victim's adult children listed below:

<sup>3</sup>  **Restrain** respondent from coming near and from having any contact whatsoever, in person or through others, by phone, mail, or any means, directly or indirectly, except for mailing of court documents, with  me  the minors named in paragraph 5 above, subject to any court-ordered visitation  these minors only, subject to any court-ordered visitation:

<sup>4</sup>  **Exclude** respondent from  our shared residence  my residence  
 my workplace  my school  the residence, day care, or school of  the minors named in paragraph 5 above  these minors only:  
 other:

You have a right to keep your residential address confidential.

<sup>5</sup>  **Direct** respondent to vacate our shared residence and restore it to me.

<sup>6</sup>  **Prohibit** respondent from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within **100 feet** (distance) of  our shared residence  my residence  my workplace  my school  the day care or school of  the minors named in paragraph 5 above.  these minors only:  
 other:

<sup>7</sup>  **Grant** me possession of essential personal belongings, including the following:

<sup>8</sup>  **Grant** me use of the following vehicle:

Year, Make & Model \_\_\_\_\_ License No. \_\_\_\_\_



<p><sup>9</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other:</b></p>
<p>Protection involving a minor:</p>
<p><sup>10</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Subject to any court-ordered visitation, <b>Grant</b> me the care, custody and control of <input type="checkbox"/> the minors named in paragraph 5 above <input type="checkbox"/> these minors only:</p>
<p><sup>11</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Restrain</b> respondent from interfering with my physical or legal custody of <input type="checkbox"/> the minors named in paragraph 5 above <input type="checkbox"/> these minors only:</p>
<p><sup>12</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Restrain</b> the respondent from removing from the state: <input type="checkbox"/> the minors named in paragraph 5 above <input type="checkbox"/> these minors only:</p>
<p>Additional Requests:</p>
<p><sup>13</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Direct</b> the respondent to participate in appropriate treatment or counseling services.</p>
<p><sup>14</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Require</b> the respondent to pay the fees and costs of this action.</p>
<p><sup>15</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Remain Effective</b> longer than one year because respondent is likely to resume acts of domestic violence against me if the order expires in a year.</p>
<p>Protection involving pets.</p>
<p><sup>16</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Grant</b> me exclusive custody and control of the following pet(s) owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by me, respondent, or a minor child residing with either me or the respondent. (Specify name of pet and type of animal.):</p> <p>_____.</p>

<p><sup>17</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prohibit</b> respondent from interfering with my efforts to remove the pet(s) named above.</p>
<p><sup>18</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prohibit</b> respondent from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within _____ (distance) of the following locations where the pet(s) are regularly found:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> petitioner's residence (You have a right to keep your residential address confidential.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Park</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</p>
<p>Protection from Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons</p>
<p><sup>19</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Require</b> the respondent to surrender all firearms, other dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol licenses, and prohibit the respondent from accessing, obtaining, or possessing firearms, other dangerous weapons, or concealed pistol licenses.</p>

Notice: If you **are** the respondent's intimate partner, after actual notice and an opportunity to be heard at the hearing, the court may be required to order the respondent to surrender firearms, other dangerous weapons, or concealed pistol licenses.

**I want emergency temporary protection effective immediately, that lasts (up to 14 days) until the court hearing:**

An emergency exists as described below. I request that a **Temporary Order for Protection** granting the relief requested above in 1) through 12) be issued immediately, without prior notice to the respondent, to be effective until the hearing.

I also request temporary surrender all firearms, other dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol licenses without notice to the other party because irreparable injury could result if an order is not issued until the hearing.

What irreparable harm would result if an order is not issued immediately without prior notice to the respondent?

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Request for Special Assistance from Law Enforcement Agencies:

I request the court order the appropriate law enforcement agency to assist me in obtaining:

- Possession of my residence.  Possession of the vehicle designated above.
- Possession of my essential personal belongings at  the shared residence
- respondent's residence
- other location \_\_\_\_\_.

X  Custody of X  the minors named in paragraph 5 above  these minors only (if applicable):

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Other: \_\_\_\_\_.





Describe any stalking behavior by respondent, including use of telephonic, audiovisual or electronic means to harass or monitor: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe medical treatment you received and for what: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe any threats of suicide or suicidal behavior by the respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the respondent own or possess firearms? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Does the respondent use firearms, weapons or objects to threaten or harm you? Please describe:

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Has the respondent used, displayed, or threatened to use a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a felony? Please describe:

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Is the respondent ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW 9.41.040? Please describe:

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Does possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon by the respondent present a serious and imminent threat to public health or safety, or to the health or safety of any individual?

Please describe:

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If you are requesting that the protection order lasts longer than one year, describe the reasons why:

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Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continue on separate page if necessary.)

Check box if substance abuse is involved:  alcohol  drugs  other

Personal service cannot be made upon respondent within the state of Washington.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: June 3, 2020 at Tacoma, Washington.

*Boris Green*

Signature of Petitioner

You have a right to keep your residential address confidential. If you have one, please provide an address, other than your residence, where you may receive legal documents: \_